

29th January 1923]

*The Madras Light-house.*

674 Q.—MR. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the spiral staircase leading to the lantern room of the Madras Light-house is dark, causing inconvenience to visitors thereto; and, if so, what steps the Government would take to have the passage lighted;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fees levied from visitors to the Light-house are credited to the Light-keepers' Recreation and Benefit Fund; if so, what amount was credited to this fund in the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921; and

(c) the expenses defrayed and the total amount utilized from this fund during the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 and the balance of the fund on 1st April 1922, including the amount, if any, due to this fund?

A.—(a) The staircase in question has been in use since 1894 and the Government are aware of no complaints regarding it with the exception of the letter of a correspondent in the *Daily Express* for the 30th November last which was couched in language of such extravagance that the Government doubt whether it was serious. The Presidency Port Officer is, however, now inquiring into the matter.

(b) & (c) The fees are credited to the Light-keepers' Recreation and Benefit Fund. The following statement shows the receipts, expenditure and balance of the fund for the years in question:—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance of the fund at the end of the year.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1917-18 .. .. .	4,783	2,763	2,020
1918-19 .. .. .	3,070	2,067	3,023
1919-20 .. .. .	6,084	2,204	6,903
1920-21 .. .. .	5,980	2,876	9,957
1921-22 .. .. .	5,525	3,989	11,493

*Bridge across Kaduvayar.*

675 Q.—MR. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reason why the construction of a bridge across the Kaduvayar in Tanjore district has not yet been commenced?

A.—The Government have no definite information but, apparently, the work was not commenced for want of funds.

*Issue of takavi loans.*

676 Q.—DIWAN BABADUR P. KESAVA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to revenue subordinates and village officers to encourage ryots, especially those living in the districts within the famine zone, to take takavi loans;

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(b) whether it is a fact that they appoint special touring officers to facilitate the disbursement of takavi loans during years of distress;

(c) whether the Revenue Divisional Officer of Penukonda ordered the village reddy and the karnam of Agali village, Madakasira taluk, Anantapur district, to appear before him on the 29th November last at Hindupur camp, a distance of 42 miles, to show cause why they should not be punished for inducing ryots to put in applications for takavi loans; and

(d) whether the action of the Revenue Divisional Officer is correct?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The Government understand that the Revenue Divisional Officer took proceedings against certain village officers whom he suspected of inducing ryots to take loans with the object of taking commission.

(d) It is understood that the proceedings in question have been stopped. The Government do not think they were well-advised under the circumstances of the case.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“It is said that some village officers were suspected of inducing ryots to take loans with the object of taking commission. Have such cases been proved to exist, Sir?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“They were only *suspected* of inducing ryots. So I can adduce no proof.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“And then, Sir, the Government say that further proceedings have been stopped. Am I to understand that these orders were issued by the Government?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“The Government understand that the proceedings were stopped. It does not mean that the Government issued orders.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“I want to know whether orders were issued to stop these proceedings by the Government.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“No orders were issued by the Government.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“May I ask the hon. Member in charge whether inducing ryots to take takavi loans is considered by the Government as not commendable and as inconsistent with their policy?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“My answer to paragraphs (a) and (b) also covers the supplementary question.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“I take it, Sir, that the answer is in the affirmative.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—“My answer is on the agenda paper” (laughter).